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Mr. David Gibson, Executive Officer Northern Watershed Unit CRWQCB-San Diego Region 2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Re: Water Quality Improvement Plan Santa Margarita Watershed Management Area, Revised Priority Water Quality Conditions (Provision B.2), and Goals, Strategies, and Schedules (Provision B.3)

Please find enclosed both a digital and hard copy of the revised Priority Water Quality Conditions (Provision B.2), and the Goals, Strategies, and Schedules (Provision B.3), subparts of the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program. Revised Provision B.2 and B.3 of the WQIP is submitted in accordance with Board Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by Orders R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100 (Regional MS4 Permit), adopted by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) on November 18, 2015. Revised Provision B.2 and Provision B.3 are submitted on behalf of the Santa Margarita River Watershed Management Area Co-Permittees (Co-Permittees) which include: the Cities of Menifee, Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar, the Counties of Riverside and San Diego, and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District).

Preparation of these documents has taken great time and energy by Co-Permittee staff and our consultants in the three months since March 30 when we received the extensive comment letter (and associated link to more detailed comments) from the Regional Board.

As there has been much more interaction with Regional Board staff than there was before the B.2 submittal on January 7, we believe that this has led to an improved plan and one that should be compliant with the Regional MS4 Permit provisions. As the attached Chronology shows, the District as lead permittee has had over a dozen substantive calls, meetings, or email exchanges with Regional Board staff since February 7. What's more, each of our co-permittees has had individual meetings with Regional Board staff to review their proposed strategies and schedules and get feedback. We want to thank Laurie Walsh and Erica Ryan for reaching out to the Santa Margarita Co-Permittees and offering their assistance.

With a complex permit that can be subject to different interpretations, it's crucial to have this kind of working relationship with Regional Board staff to address misconceptions early on. Acceptance of the

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Re: Water Quality Improvement Plan Santa Margarita Watershed Management Area, Revised Priority Water Quality Conditions (Provision B.2), and Goals, Strategies, and Schedules (Provision B.3)

Final WQIP in 2018 is our goal, and continuation of this interaction will be extremely helpful during the next phase of the WQIP which is the preparation of the Monitoring and Assessment Program and development of the Adaptive Management process. Moreover, we want to bring our interaction to a higher level. The B.2 and B.3 submittals are long, complex documents that may require clarification as the Regional Board staff progresses on their review. Since many issues can be resolved through a quick conversation, we are making ourselves available to Regional Board staff to answer any questions they may have during the 30-day review period. We trust that this would assist the Regional Board staff to respond with a comment letter in the shortest time practicable.

We're looking forward to timely feedback and continued cooperation with Regional Board staff in the coming months. The District is committed to improved and effective engagement with the Regional Board staff, Co-Permittees, other stakeholders and the public to solicit feedback during this last phase of WQIP development. If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please feel free to call me at 951.955.1273, or Julianna Adams at 951.955.8064.

Very truly yours,

STUART E. McKIBBIN

Chief of Watershed Protection Division

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Attachments:

Interaction Chronology

**Executive Summary** 

Introduction

Revised Priority Water Quality Conditions (Provision B.2)

Goals, Strategies, and Schedules (Provision B.3)

Appendix 1A – Document Crosswalk and Response to Comments

Appendix 1B – Response to Consultation Committee Comments

Appendix 2A – Data Summary and Analysis Procedures

Appendix 2B – Source Evaluation

Appendix 2C - Potential Strategies to Address the HPWQC

Appendix 3A – Jurisdictional Strategies for the SMR WMA

Appendix 3B - Rainbow Creek Watershed Modeling and Compliance Analysis

Appendix 3C – Watershed Management Area Analysis

ec: Alex Gann, County of Riverside Executive Office

Claudia Steiding, Riverside County Transportation Department

Stuart Kuhn, City of Temecula

Mai Son, City of Murrieta

Jason Farag, City of Wildomar

Yolanda Macalalad, City of Menifee

Jamie Milani, County of San Diego